

RESTRICTED

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JCS review(s) completed.

12 October 1948

Monuments, Fine Arts, Archives, Office Military Government Bavaria

Date Visited: 19 August 1948

GENERAL

1. The function of this agency is the restitution to the original owners of cultural items such as books, paintings, etc. which were confiscated by the Germans during the war. Restitution of this material is almost completed.

2. The collection of printed material was examined by this party. Nothing of intelligence interest was found except the library of the Sven Hedin Institute.

LIBRARY OF THE SVEN HEDIN INSTITUTE

3. The Sven Hedin Institute was originally an academic organization whose purpose was to make detailed studies on the Far East. Later, mainly due to the efforts of Hitler and Himmler, this institute was taken over by the Nazi party. It was set up at the Mittersill Schloss near Innsbruck, Austria under the direction of a man named Schaefer to do secret studies on the Far East. The library of this institute contains the documentary material which was accumulated in pursuing these studies. This is believed to be the best collection of its kind in the western world.

4. Unfortunately the collection was still packed in boxes so a screening could not be made. Its weight was estimated at three tons. The library is now being cataloged by a Miss Kraft (German) who is attending the East Asiatic Institute, a seminar of the University of Munich.

5. It is believed that this collection could be confiscated without difficulty as there is ample evidence to prove that it was Nazi Party property and was supported by it. Under Military Government regulations this collection therefore is subject to confiscation.

6. By coincidence, on 23 August 1948 when this party was in Heidelberg, Captain Bernhardt, Chief of Document Section, ODI showed us a letter referring to this collection. The letter had been written by Dr. Rhea Blue, Division of Research for the Far East, State Department, Washington, D. C. to the Political Advisor, EUCOM who had forwarded it to the Intelligence Division for action. The letter requested information as to the existence and present location of the collection. The information which this party had obtained in Munich was passed on to Captain Bernhardt. This information was also disseminated to Dr. Blue upon the

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RECOMMENDATIONS

7. It is recommended that this collection be confiscated immediately and shipped to the United States.

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